

FANTASY ADVERTISER

VOL. III NO. 4

FEBRUARY '49

10¢



Neil Austin 48

FANTASY ADVERTISER
 Volume III Number 4
 FEBRUARY 1949

'The Amateur Professional for Professional Amateurs', published bi-monthly as a service to fantasy readers and collectors everywhere. We pay, upon publication, \$5.00 for articles over 2,500 words, and \$2.50 for shorter articles. All contributions, advertisements and articles for review, should be sent to the editorial address. Reasonable care will be taken to ensure fair dealing through these pages, but responsibility for articles offered cannot be assumed by the publishers.

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50¢ per
 year

Cover by Neil Austin
 Interiors by Herman King

2/6 per
 annum..

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EDITORIAL We expected to have this issue out by the end of January, and here it is the end of February instead. Looks as if the imps of fate were aligned again us.

We did have some help with this one, though. Dale Hart has given a number of hours typing; Doc Daugherty lent a number of hours of professional assistance; and naturally my wife gave assistance, hindrance & support. Thankx to all.

Next issue will have an article on Clark Ashton Smith by Lin Carter and another by Malcolm Ferguson on fantasy bookplates. Lin is well known for his artwork; his articles are even better. Ferguson may not be well known to American fans, but I have been an admirer of his since I read his discussion of fantasy art in THE FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST while we were both stationed in the UK. I think that his article, tho short, will be interesting.

Anthony Boucher, formerly of the SF CHRONICLE and now mystery reviewer of MLLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, will start a monthly fantasy-and-SF review column in the LA DAILY NEWS. (First one's appeared.) Tony has always been one of the few professional reviewers to pay special attention to the output of small and specialized houses; and all fantasy publishers are requested to send review copies directly to his home address, 2643 Dana St, Berkeley 4, Calif. Do it.

SCIENCE-FICTION: The Best of '48, edited by Everett F. Bleiler and T.E. Dikty, originally scheduled to be a Shasta book, is to be published by Frederick Fell, Inc, of New York, early this summer. I savvy it's the first of four annual 'Best of the Year' volumes to be contracted for. You can watch for it.

Bill Atkins, St Louis bookman, has accepted an appointment as sales manager with publishers Wm. C. Brown Co. of Dubuque, Ia. Congrats are due.

If the last couple of months are any indication, things are looking up for FA. A couple hundred more subs & we'll have to expand. That should be good news for advertisers and buyers alike. Good Reading. GW

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OF NOVA TOMES

CO-EDITED BY WALT LIEBSCHER

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This latest Shasta book is a collection of De Camp's excellent fiction featuring the title name from Unknown and six short stories from ASF& UNK. To enumerate, these are: THE BEST-LAID SCHEME, THE WARRIOR RACE, HYPER-PELOUSITY, THE MERMAN, THE CONTRABAND COW, and THE GNARLY MAN.

The selection is good, and the content fairly representative of the DeCamp pen. Since Shasta plans to present companion volumes to this, I think that the book will be an excellent one to build a set about. If the policy of presenting collections of leading authors is continued, SHASTA will build up a fine library of SF and fantasy.

The jacket is a four-color job by Bok, not quite as well executed as the Hubbard volume's jacket, but more colorful. The book is well bound and printed on a good grade of book paper. Despite the amount of wordage, the type has a good face, large enough to read easily.

Everyone who knows De Camp's slapstick humor enthroned in fantasy and subtle intellectuality, his insight in human nature, his life and zest cannot but know what is in this book. For those who don't, I suggest you acquaint yourselves with the matter. There's nothing to lose but three bucks, and many interesting hours to gain. GW

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1933 - Aug (Vol 1, No 12)

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#1 (Nov-Dec 1936) #2 (Jan-Feb 1937)

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- End -

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FANTASY ADVERTISER
God's gift to the
fantasy collector

Franklin's Fanzines - Gas

Three printed mags dropped into the box this time. First was the old regular, FANTASY REVIEW (115 Wanstead Pk Rd, Ilford, Essex, Eng.) in a new (25¢) price range with 32 pp of reading. Is good, natch. A 4-sheeter, THE LOVE-CRAFT COLLECTOR (Ray Zorn, Troy Grove Ill.) consisting of comment on the Lovecraft market and allied subjects, is circulated to amateur press circle mostly; others gotta make special arrangements. The other print job was OFF-TRAIL REVIEW (POBox 211, Greenville, Tex), containing fiction, poetry and special sections that are bit off-trail re title, tho a bit goody for stfnists. Apparently patterned after the little magazines. Some fantasy scribes might place some stuff in here.

The number of off-set productions continues to grow. We got FANSCIENT, the best issue to date. (3435 NE 38th Ave, Portland 13, Ore) More pages, better format, and experience is making this the top notch general fanmag in America. Still hard to read...The No 1 issue of SCIENTIFANTASY is now out with a cover by Phillips, b a c k cover by Grossman, and dozens of interiors by Grossman and Kröll. The best illustrated fanzine in the field bar none. Same size and format as FANSCIENT, and, if the content is kept at par, may surpass it. (1031 W. 18th St, Des Moines, Ia) Also lithoed is BLOOMINGTON NEWS LETTERS (POBox 260, Bloomington, Ill.) Tucker won't give up - this contains all the items that the frustrated genius wants to gas about. Off-set, too, is SCIENCE, FANTASY and SCIENCE-FICTION (Box 696, at Kings Park, NY), which contains, as policy, science articles, fiction and poetry. Good, but spotty.

FABULOUS FAUST FANZINE (6 silver Ave, Covington, Ky) is out in another large, well-done, artistic ish. Contains several fantasy bits.

SPACEWARP (2120 Bay St, Saginaw, Mich) gives pages of fanfiction, humor and crud. A monthly.

The news mag, FANTASY TIMES (101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, NY) hit thrice with the current. A little thinner, but more up to date. Improved.

Got three PEON, too. (2116 Edsall Ct, Alameda, Cal) Generalzine, well reproduced and well done.

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POLARIS, an old name but a new mag, from 4170 Utah St, St Louis, Mo. Dittoed. Hope Mulcahy can put a mag in the same brackets as the old Polaris. the 4pp don't look like it tho.

FANTOPOLOGIST (Bethalto, Ill) is another #1. Hectoed, hard to read, but fair content.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN (813 Eastern Ave, Connersville, Ind) News, views and junk of N3F. A good mag & cheap at the joining fee.

MUTANT (22180 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington, Mich) the voice of Michigan fandom, does right well as an OO.

Aside from FANTASY REVIEW, we got six foreign publications. Three of these were THE SYDNEY FUTURIAN (160 Beach St, Coogee, Sydney, Australia) OO of the down-under society. Cannot stress too strongly the import of supporting such folk. Do so. SCIENCE FANTASY NEWS (16, Wendover Way, Wellig, Kent, Eng) is the OO of the British Society. OPERATION FANTAST (Riverside, South Brink, Wisbech, Cambs, Eng) is an English counterpart of FA. Mostly ads with some news and article.

300KLIST (John Gunn, The Miltons Head Hotel, Milton St, Nottingham) is a little newsy pub of UK readers.

Well, this is '30' for this one. I am looking for a regular fmz reviewer. But send in your pubs anyway; may be I will get them talked about. GW

- END -

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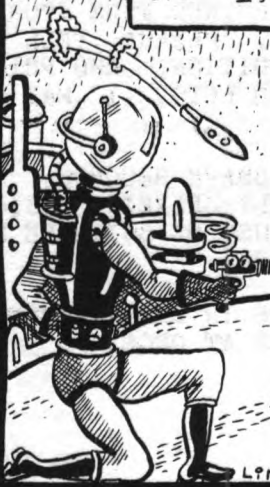
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- POE -

MASTER OF MACABRE

PS

HERMAN
KING
#2



Much has been written of America's master of the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe, but this is probably the first long, detailed account of his life to appear in a magazine for some time. There will be at least a few bits of information contained herein with which many of the readers aren't familiar. If not, it will seem unnecessarily repetitious, yet there are numerous articles on Merritt, Lovcraft and other great fantasy authors continually appearing in print, so it is hardly needful to apologize reiteration on Poe.

Poe once wrote the following lines in relation to his poetry:

"Events not to be controlled have prevented me from making, at any time, any serious effort in what, under happier circumstances, would have been the field of my choice. With me poetry has been not a purpose, but a passion."

Indeed one is led to wonder how far Poe could have developed his marvelous poetic talent, had he lived a more enjoyable life, with less misery and tragedy. Few great writers were more wretched than Poe. He died young, at the age of forty, the object of many hardships and failures.

Poe's parents were David and Elizabeth Poe, two poverty-stricken actors. Edgar Allan was born at 33

Hollis Street, Boston, Mass, on Jan. 19, 1809. His parents, at the time, were filling an engagement at a Boston theatre. Their appearances can be traced by playbills of that time.

The Poes first came to America about 1739. Their line has been traced back as far as Dring, in the County of Cavan, Ireland, and then into Ayrshire, Scotland. Hence they derive from Scottish-Irish stock.

David Poe, grandfather of the famous poet served brilliantly during the Revolutionary War, and was partly instrumental in pushing the Tories out of Baltimore. He was a great help to Lafayette in the Virginia & Southern campaigns. He was the father of seven children, his eldest child later becoming Edgar Allan Poe's father.

David Jr. left home to follow a stage career after having first been destined for the law. His first professional appearance took place at Charleston, S. C., in Dec. 1803. He played mostly minor roles, & married Elizabeth Arnold Hopkins, a young widow whose husband had died but a few months previously.

Elizabeth was also an actress, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Arnold, both actors of the Covent Garden Theatre Royal, London. She was born in London in the spring of 1787.

her acting paralleled David Poe's, insofar as both had only minor success.

It was 1806, as previously stated, that she married David. They had three children, William Henry Leonard (also a poet), born in 1807 in Boston; Edgar Allan, born in 1809 also at Boston, and Rosalie, in 1810 at Norfolk, Va.

The summer following Edgar's birth the Poes went to New York. Here David drops out of the picture. Whether he died or deserted his wife can not be definitely ascertained though conjecture leans more to the former theory. The paternity of the last child (Rosalie) was held in suspicion and affected the lives of her children. That this suspicion was unjust is rather certain. From 1810 on, Mrs Poe continued playing various roles, but illness finally overtook her, & in 1811 she died and was buried at Richmond. As his mother died in great misery and poverty, so was the poet to end his own life.

Three orphaned children were left at Mrs. Poe's death. Two of these, Edgar and Rosalie, were taken care of by charitable people. When two years old, Edgar was adopted by John Allan, a fairly wealthy Scotch Merchant. Mrs. Allan and her sister adored him, and indeed Edgar was supposed to have been an attractive intelligent little boy. His childhood appears to have been rather enjoyable, and the he was spoiled by his foster-mother seems evident, though Mr. Allan was more stern at times.

In 1815 the family made an excursion to England, visiting Scotch relatives. Upon their return to America, Mr. Allan began trying to build up his Richmond firm, Ellis and Allan, by trading in merchandise and tobacco. The Allan residence was at Southampton Row, Russell Square, while Edgar was sent to a boarding school where he remained until 1817. From there he went to a London school, studying under the Rev. John Bramby for about three years. Then, in the spring of 1820, he withdrew to return to America. His memories of these school days in England remained as a pleasant nostalgia during his entire career, and were recalled in one of his fiction stories, "William Wilson", a fine narrative where the central character meets his double, with horrible consequences. At this stage of his life, Poe appears to be a precocious, somewhat

lordly, young man. His schooling was paid for by his step-father, who evidently regarded him as a son. This fatherly love was later to turn into bitter animosity.

John Allan had business ventures in London, none of which turned out fortunately. He arrived in Richmond in August of 1820, considerably embarrassed, a position also occupied by his partner Charles Ellis. Assignments of real estate finally were made in order to satisfy creditors. The Allan family continued to exist comfortably though. Edgar was later sent to another academy, where he became very popular with his masters and elders, who were impressed by his obvious brilliance. He was at his peak in languages, oratory, amateur theatricals, and gained a favorable reputation for swimming. Although somewhat aloof from most of his playmates, he was not unliked.

Poe's verse formulated while still in his early 'teens. He possessed an exceptional talent in this field, and as a poet he is more widely known today, though he wrote numerous fiction, essays, dramas, and similar types of composition. Probably his most famous work is the superb poem, "The Raven", although "The Doomed City" and "Ulalune" are liked as well. Let's skip ahead to view some circumstances connected with the writing of his masterpiece, "The Raven". The poem was first published in the New York Mirror, January, 1845. Upon perusal, the reader will immediately comprehend how vastly the death of his wife affected Poe, and that the tragedy gave impetus to the composition of the poem. At the time of its publication, the Reverend George Gilfillan, a contemporary litterateur of Reverend Rufus Griswold, Poe's literary executor, declared Poe hastened the death of his wife so that he could write the poem. There is no evidence in fact that would support this libellous statement. Poe and the Reverends waged bitter war, with politeness, justice and truth favoring Poe. No credence was given the defamatory assertion of Gilfillan.

Chronologically, we find Poe contracting an intimacy with a school-mate, Robert Stanard, whose mother, Jane Stith Stanard, took a tender interest in the intelligent young boy, an interest ardently and romantically returned. Poe afterwards wrote a poem about Mrs. Stanard, entitled "To

Helen". Shortly afterward the Lady went insane and died, the tragedy profoundly shocking the poet. A rumor, without much substantiability, evolved that Poe haunted her grave a t night in the lonely cemetery. Whether this has any basis in fact or not, Poe definitely grieved the untimely ending of Mrs. Stansard's life.

By 1824 the Allans' financial state was extremely precarious, and Mrs Allan's health was failing her. To Add to the trouble there was serious domestic trouble in the house.

When General Lafayette visited Richmond in 1824, Poe, who was an officer in a cadet company, acted as an escort to the old general. This gave him a new sense of his dignity and in some way or another, he learned that his foster-father had had extra-marital relations, and that some of his natural children were living in Richmond at the time. Allan's wife had learned of this also, and the knowledge seriously disturbed her. At home Edgar took her part and a quarrel took place between him and the man who had adopted him several years previous. Bitterness on each side lasted a decade. The conflict between them grew more intense. Mr. Allan had come into the possession of some of Mrs David Poe's correspondence. What information was in these letters will never be known, for Poe had Mrs. Clemm destroy them afterwards. Anyway, Mr. Allan wrote a letter to William Henry Leonard Poe in Baltimore, in order to seal Edgar's lips concerning his own mode of living. He complained that the latter was ungrateful and also attacked the legitimacy of Rosalie, the boy's sister. Rosalie, incidentally, had been adopted by the William MacKenzies, and outlived Edgar many years.

These harrowing circumstances had a bad effect on young Poe. He had never been legally adopted and if Allan disowned him, he would be in a serious situation. Consequently, even from childhood, Poe lived a sorrowful life.

In 1825 things brightened for the Allans. Mr. Allan acquired a considerable amount of money by the demise of his uncle, William Galt. A fine new house was purchased, and there followed frequent parties and social gatherings. Mrs. Allan's health continued to wane, however. At this time Edgar became interested in a neighbor girl, Sarah Elmira Royster, visiting her often. In February of 1826, he matriculated at Vir-

ginia University. Just before he entered, he became engaged (unknown to the adults of either household) to Sarah.

While he made brilliant grades in his studies, Poe also fell in with bad company, and began to drink and gamble. Thus, while definitely very intelligent, he was also of weak 'intestinal fortitude'. Only a little alcohol would have bad effect on the nervous youth.

Sarah was kept from writing Edgar by her newly-enlightened parents and her marriage to the poet never materialized. Further dissension between foster-father and son also brought serious trouble to Poe. Finding Poe had been gambling and losing, Allan became enraged, for the young man had fallen into debt to the sum of \$2500. Upon his return home for the Christmas holiday, Edgar was informed by his foster-father that he could not return to the university. We can hardly blame him (Mr. Allan) for this action.



Poe was hard pressed by warrants. Mr. Allan refused to pay any of his ward's debts, and relationships between the two grew more strained. Finally, when Mr. Allan tried to make Edgar give up his literary career & start reading law, there came a break. After a violent quarrel the young poet left the house and went to Boston. There he tried writing for a newspaper, and prevailed upon a printer, Calvin Thomas, to publish a

small volume of poems under an assumed name. The little volume, "Tamerlane and Other Poems", had no success, only a few copies appearing in public. The bulk of it was destroyed or suffered to lie in neglect, probably due to the author's inability to compensate the printer.

Penniless, Poe was desperate. He joined the Army on May 26, 1827, under the pseudonym of Edgar C. Perry. He served excellently, and was promoted to Sergeant Major, highest position open to an enlisted man. From November 1827 to December 1828, he spent at Fort Moultrie, S. C., doing garrison duty. The fort was on Sullivan's Island, and this site proved fine atmosphere for a later fiction story, "The Gold Bug".

Poe wrote appealing letters to Mr. Allan, wanting a reconciliation. But the latter was obstinate, and refused to take the youth back. Mrs. Allan was finally instrumental in having her husband partially give in and aid Edgar again.

Mrs. Allan expressed a desire to see her "dear boy" again ere she died, for dying she was. At the last moment, the contumacious John Allan consented and sent for the poet who was then near Richmond. Arriving at his former home, Edgar found he was too late. All that he loved most was in the cold ground. It is said his agony at her grave was extreme.

Poe was given a discharge from the Army on April 15, 1829, and through the influence of Mr. Allan, (influence given grudgingly) obtained an entrance into West Point. A delay lasting a year before he could enter the Point gave the youth time to follow his literary career. After a hard search, he found a firm that agreed to publish a volume of poetry, entitled "Al Aaraaf Tamerlane and Minor Poems". It was published by Hatch and Dunning in 1829 in Baltimore. For a short while Poe was able to live at his "home" as the small success he gained from his published works appeased Mr. Allan slightly. But quarrels between the two continued and once again relations were severed. Poe entered West Point, and remained there between June 25, 1830, and Feb. 19, 1831. The military career was distasteful to the poet and the strict discipline irritating.

Following his courts-martial and discharge from the academy, Poe went to New York, penniless and ill. Ap-

peals to his guardian were in vain. Poe had his third volume, "Poems, Second Edition", published and attempted to join the Polish patriots then revolting against Russia. In this he failed. Toward the end of March 1831, he went to Baltimore where he took up residence with his aunt, Marie Clemm, and her daughter, Virginia. His brother, Henry, had taken to drinking, and was in poor health. He later died, in August.



During the next four years Poe's doings are rather obscure. He suffered much poverty and illness, as did the entire Clemm household. He also took up prose, placing some material with a Philadelphia publication. A debt contracted by his brother Henry was the cause of Poe nearly being imprisoned. On another occasion the poet paid court to a girl named Mary Devereaux. He was refused and horsewhipped the girl's uncle.

Poe won a \$50 prize from the Baltimore paper, Saturday Review, for his story "Mrs. Found in a Bottle". This was in October 1833, and gained the young man considerable fame. Through the influence of John P. Kennedy, who befriended him, Poe was introduced to Thomas White, editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, published in Richmond, Va. After contributing short stories and reviews to that periodical, Poe was invited to become an assistant editor. This occurred in 1835. (In the meantime, Mr. Allan had died in 1834, and no mention of Poe was made in his will.)

Poe was a fine editor, and subscriptions to the Messenger mounted. He could have stayed on and made a success, had it not been for his drinking. Due to his craving for stimulants, he was discharged only a few weeks after his arrival there. Returning to Baltimore, he secretly married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, on Sept. 22, 1835. She was only about thirteen, and relatives opposed a union at such an early age.

Poe was reinstated in his assistant editor's position on the Southern Literary Messenger, promising Mr White to refrain from drinking. There he remained from the autumn of 1835 to Jan. 1837. The paper's circulation increased from 700 to 3500, due to Poe's excellent work. He wrote stories, Poems, reviews and essays. All his work was popular. Among his stories to appear was "Metzengerstein". A marked morbidity was even then denoted in his writing and deprecated. This could not subtract from appreciation concerning his evident genius though.

Despite his well meant promises to White, Poe once again indulged in alcoholics. His increasing reputation prompted him to meditate upon "bigger things", so he moved to New York in the winter of 1837, winding up affairs with the Messenger.

In 1835, Poe's long story, "The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym", was published by Harpers. The book brought him small fame and less cash. It is very good, actually, a favorite among his prose writings. Though there is only a very small element of fantasy, much suffering at sea, including starvation, shipwreck, etc, make for a thoroughly enjoyable period of reading. The last half is more fantastic, telling of a strange race in the then unknown southern hemisphere where the color "white" worked terror, whenever it appeared. A peculiar bird-thing, white in hue, was picked up at sea. The natives uttered the affrighted cry of "TEKEL-LII" upon discovering its carcass. This was also the terrified exclamation of the captured Tsalalian native when he saw Pym's white materials. The swift-flying, gigantic birds emerged from the cloudy white vapor were white. Unfortunately, Poe never finished the story, thus leaving too much to the reader's imagination. However, it is the longest of his fiction stories.

For quite a long period, Poe and his family suffered extreme poverty. Though several of his stories sold, they brought him in very little, and in Aug 1838, he moved to Philadelphia. Here he edited a text book, entitled "The Conchologists First Book, or a System of Testaceous Malacology". It was purely hack work and does not belong with his creative or artistic work. It is an extreme rarity tho, and much sought after by collectors. In 1927 only nine editions were known to exist; the first was published in April, 1837, by Haswell, Barrington, and Haswell. Poe wrote the preface and introduction. He was aided by others in the arrangement and illustrations. The beautifully engraved plates of shells were pirated from an Englishman, Capt. Thomas Brown's work. Poe was later accused of plagiarism, but nothing came of the charge, and such pirating for school texts was almost universal at the time. This is the fifth of Poe's bound works and he received \$50 for the use of his name as editor.

Poe then had two thin volumes of his prose published by Lea and Blanchard, entitled "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque". They sold very poorly, and Poe received no royalty, as the publisher had assumed all financial risks. The young poet acquired a position with "Burton's Gentleman's Magazine" and contributed stories, poems, book reviews and sports articles. The best of the poems to appear in that magazine was "To Ianthe in Heaven", and included among the fiction tales were "The Fall of the House of Usher", "William Wilson" and "Morella". At the same time, Poe corresponded with several literary greats, the most notable of them being Washington Irving.

After Mr. Burton sold his magazine to George Rex Graham, Poe took a position with the later at a salary of \$800 a year. He had briefly contemplated issuing a publication of his own, but his extremely bad financial status force him to abandon the idea.

After Poe took over editing "Graham's", the list of subscribers rose from 5000 to 40,000. Once again we see Poe excelling as an editor. Coupled with Graham's fine policy, this was the reason for the magazine's sensational success.

Poe's position with Graham, which lasted from Jan 1841 to April 1842,

was the easiest financial period of his life. Though he earned little, it was sufficient for some comfort. He took up cryptography and had some more of his tales published separately. He won an award of \$100 for "The Gold Bug", an adventure tale in which cryptography is a component of the plot.

Again Poe's imbibing in alcohol caused him grief. It not only lost him his job with Graham, but blasted the chance of his launching his own magazine, which this time had almost succeeded. To a large degree, his failure in life was his own fault. Despite this aspect of his personality his literary genius remains unchallenged. He not only wrote weird fantasies, but also devoted a large portion of his writing to detective and science-fiction (which, of course, had no name at that time), adventure, comedy and numerous essays. Most of his poetry is romantic, superior to his prose work.

Coming back to the account of his life - Virginia Poe was dying of tuberculosis, and we find the poet drinking heavier than ever. He also used opium (though evidence to this is only slight.) Returning from Saratoga Springs where he had been sent to recuperate, he nearly died of a heart attack. This was in 1844, and the Poes were living at 234 North 7th Street, Philadelphia. Poe was corresponding with several famous literary figures, including James Russell Lowell, and was often visited by loyal friends, among them some prominent people. Despite this he could not cope with the world, largely due to his temperament and physical condition.

An attempt at publishing an edition of his tales failed and in 1827 only one copy of these pamphlets, containing "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", was known to exist. This is the rarest of all Poe items, and enough to cause a collector to drool vainly.

On April 6, 1844, the poet took his invalid wife to New York, leaving Mrs. Clemm behind to close house. He arrived there with \$4.50 in his pocket, reduced to dire necessity. They found a place in a humble boarding house at 130 Greenwich Street, where Poe, facing poverty, sold a false news story ("The Balloon Hoax") to the N. Y. Sun. Such things were popular then and frequently indulged in by newspaper editors. The story

was well received, and indeed, fooled thousands. The hoax was that a balloon had crossed the Atlantic in three days.



Money earned from this work enabled Mrs. Clemm to join the Poes in New York. Leaving his family at the Greenwich lodgings, Poe boarded for a while at Number 4 Ann Street. During the spring and summer of 1844 he managed to barely exist by hacking out articles for "Columbia (Pa) Spy", and "Godey's Lady Book".

At that period, or shortly afterwards, James Russell Lowell was writing a brief biography of Poe for "Graham's". The Poes moved twice, living for a while in lovely Hudson Valley, and from there to 15 Amity Street, New York City. Through the energetic Mrs. Clemm, Poe obtained a salaried position on N.Y. Evening Mirror, in a minor editorial capacity, where he turned out considerable hack work. He was able to call attention to himself, to notice Miss Barrett's (later Robert Browning's wife) poetry favorably, and to involve himself in an unfortunate attack upon Longfellow, with various results. He then obtained a more important editorial position on "The Broadway Journal".

In Jan. 1845, Poe's poem "The Raven" (which he had completed while living in the Hudson Valley) was published anonymously in the Evening Mirror. This started him on the road

to fame and was undoubtedly the most popular poem ever to appear in America up till that time. It was republished on Feb. 8, 1845 over the author's name in the Mirror.

The following couple of years found Poe more famous, but in very bad health and finance. The family suffered considerably, and in Jan. 1847, Virginia died. She was buried at Fordham, but later removed to the side of her husband in Baltimore.

Following her demise, Poe was nursed back to somewhat better health by Mrs. Clemm, and a friend, Mrs. Shew. Aided by his friends, he was able to appear among the living again. At Fordham he had written "Eureka", a long essay or "prose poem", of a metaphysical-semi-scientific cast, which was published in Mar 1848 by Geo. B. Putnam of New York. The nature of "Eureka" forbade it being popular, and was the tenth and last of the poet's work to be published during his lifetime. (An edition of his tales dated 1849 is known to exist however.) Poe took a trip lecturing in Philadelphia, when another indulgence in drink almost ended his life. This latter part of his life marked the publication of some of his best poems--"Annabel Lee", "The Bells", "Ulalume", etc, and his infatuation with several women.

Lecturing trips to Providence, R. I. Brought him acquaintance with Mrs Annie Richmond and Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman, (a widow of considerable charm and literary reputation.) In the summer of 1848 he went to Richmond, where he tried to fight a duel with a newspaper editor, Daniels, & once again took up drinking. Returning to Providence, he obtained Mrs. Whitman's promise to marry him if he refrained from intoxicants, a marriage that never materialized due to his breaking his work, and opposition from Mrs. Whitman's relatives. (Poe was also infatuated with Mrs Richmond.)

Returning to Fordham to the comfort of Mrs. Clemm, the poet tried to disregard the scandal (before his dismissal by Mrs. Whitman, Poe had swallowed laudanum but the dose proved to be an emetic and he survived) but it nevertheless affected his career. He wrote for magazines that had previously bought his work, but they either failed or suspended payment.

Failing health compelled Mrs. Clemm to nurse him through delirium, and upon recovery he attempted reviving his scheme of a magazine (The Stylus). With funds lent him by an admirer out west, Poe started for

Richmond, hoping to obtain help there from old friends. Stopping off at Philadelphia, he drank heavily and wandered distractedly. Faithful friends rescued him from the streets and prison, raising money enough to send him on his way. Warned by this latter, nearly fatal experience, Poe struggled to keep off the bottle. Aided by friends in Richmond, he made a short "come-back", lecturing at Richmond and Norfolk, Va. He appeared heavily applauded, and was able to enter society with some dignity. Finally, he obtained the promise of marriage from his childhood sweetheart, Elmira Royster--now the widow of A. B. Shelton, and a lady of no little monetary means.

Preparations for the wedding continued and a date set (Oct. 17, of 1849). Poe wrote Mrs. Clemm in New York, informing her of affairs, and Poe was set to go after her, so that she could attend the wedding. At the last moment, in one of his letters to Mrs. Clemm, the poet expressed the fact that he still loved Annie Richmond. With this, one of the last of his letters, the odd story of his curious affections ends with contradiction and doubtfulness.

On the morning of Sept. 23, Poe left Richmond, taking a little cash. He travelled by steamer to Baltimore, arriving there on the 29th, and what exactly happened to him in that city is uncertain. An election was going on, and evidence gives substantiability to the theory that he fell in the clutches of a gang of repeaters, who drugged and voted him. Anyway, on Oct. 3, he was discovered by an old friend, Dr. James E. Snodgrass, in a serious condition at a low tavern on Lombard Street. Taken to Washington Hospital, he remained delirious, calling for one "Reynolds", possibly a person who never existed, and giving vent to every indication of utter despair. On Sunday morning, Oct. 7, 1849, he died, his last words being "Lord help my poor soul".

So died tragically a great literary genius. He was buried in Westminster Presbyterian Cemetery, and his wife later moved beside him. A wretched life--a wretched death. Though only part of his works are weird in nature, these are the best of his fiction tales, for such an existence would naturally create a melancholy morbidity. (This is particularly evident in "The Black Cat", a remarkable horror narrative.) If Poe lived today, with a modern style and knowledge, he would most undoubtedly be marvelous.

FANTASY FAN FIELD

LONDON, Dec.

A British fantasy society coordinated by a council of London fans has been formed. While allowing the utmost freedom this Council will attempt to help all British fans in every way possible. Known as the Science Fantasy Society, it will provide fanzine editors with monetary grants and will undertake distribution of all news, fanmags and directories.

A news magazine, SCIENCE FANTASY NEWS, the first issue of which has just been issued, will be the official organ of the society, issued at six weekly intervals. Alternate issues will be combined with such publications as "OPERATION FANTASY" and "ALEMBIC". The first issue was a 16 page half foolscap size mag, containing a six page article by Ken Slater on fan clubs.

FANTASY REVIEW EXPANDS

December saw the enlargement of FANTASY REVIEW by 12 pages, the price increasing to 1/- (25¢) per copy. Still publishing bimonthly, Wally hopes to include more articles and material of general interest.

STAPLEDON & BRITISH INTERPLANETARY

Fans were invited to attend Olaf Stapledon's talk on "Interplanetary Man" at a BIS meeting on October 9th. Several hundred people present clearly showed the general public's interest in the social and psychological problems of sciencefiction and space travel. Points from stories in ASF were discussed and the meeting was widely publicised in the daily press.

NEW WORLDS NO. 4

The fourth issue of NEW WORLDS, slated for February, will feature "World in Shadow" by John Brody as the lead story, backed by John Aiken "Edge of Night", originally printed in "BEYOND". Other authors include Norman Layen, A. B. Chandler, F.G. Rayer, and E. R. James, while A. C. Clarke has an article on "The Shape of Ships to Come". The cover, showing a space ship near Earth, is by Dennis.

"EGO" WORKS

A. C. Clarke has taken over the assistant editorship of SCIENCE ABSTRACTS, a technical magazine dealing with electronics and physics.

ANNOUNCEMENT

"The second issue of the "Fabulous Faust Fan-zine" (Dec. 1948) is now available at 50¢ per copy. A 68 page publication, printed in 5 colors, illustrated, with planographed covers; it is published in the interest of fans, collectors and readers of the works of Frederick Faust, who wrote under such pseudonyms as: Max Brand, Evan Evans, George Challis, George Owen Baxter, John Frederick, and David Manning. Order your copy from D. C. Richardson, Editor and Publisher, 6 Silver Avenue, Covington, Kentucky.

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FFF, (Cont'd)

MAGAZINES HELD UP

Second class main to Great Britain has been held up for three weeks by the New York dock strike, but is now coming through. Most Anglo-fans received material before Christmas.

BRITISH REPRINTS

Several American books, including Bradbury's "Dark Carnival" and Lovecraft and Derleth's "The Lurker at the Threshold" have been reprinted in England, selling at 9/- and 8/6d respectively.

Many new fantasies published include a Dennis Wheatley, while "My First 2000 Years" has just appeared at 12/6d.

* * * *

MONTREAL, Dec 48

J. Clare Richards has been named President of the Canadian Science Fiction Association, filling the post made vacant by the resignation of James Templar. Clare is also President of the Lakehead SFS of Hamilton & his success in that group points up his capabilities for the job. The LSFS sponsored Boris Dyke, Sec'y of the Canadian Rocket Society, on November 9th, in his speech on "Rocket to the Moon" to an audience of forty people at the Hamilton Public Library. Invitation cards and leaflets were printed for the meeting, which had full radio and press coverage, as well as displays in bookstores and at the library.

Stf circles in Canada are buzzing with a 'Keller feud'. Remarks made by Sam McCoy in a Toronto article in issue 37 of Les Croutche's LIGHT were not appreciated by Mr & Mrs Keller. Result was that #38 had some 11 letters, pro and con, on the subject - as well as the bulk of an editorial by Les Croutch. Les apologized to the Kellers, but will not retract.

Canada's eleventh science fiction society was inaugurated October 6th with a membership of twelve at the home of President Lew Holland. Other executive officers are Ron Anger, Secretary; Henry Eastwood, Extension Chairman; and Jack Bowie-Reed, Liaison Officer. An Ottawa Journal reporter was present and both the Journal and Citizen wrote the meeting up accurately and seriously.

The first two in a chain of trans Canada CSFA Organizers have just been appointed. They are Paul Walton for Eastern Ontario and Sam McCoy for

FOR SALE

I am disposing of my SF collection which contains all the hard to get mags like the early Astoundings, Wonders, Amazings, Amazing Quarterlies, etc. Also have a complete file of Unknown and many early Weird. Around 200 mint SF books are also for sale. Since some few of the mags are not in mint or near mint condition, I will give individual quotes rather than blanket quotes by year.

Mags will be sold by issues or sets, and the size of the order will of course affect the price. All letters answered by return mail.

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Southern Ontario. In Paul's District clubs exist at Picton, Deseronto, and Ottawa; while in Sam's district clubs are at London, Hamilton and Windsor.

On November 2 the McGill-Montreal SFS elected its Executive for the forthcoming year, consisting of: President - Bert Joss, Vice President - Dink English, Legal Advisor - Bob McGill, Secretary - Moe Diner, Corresponding Secretary - Gerry Williams, Recording Secretary - Sylvia Pett, Membership Secretary - Steve Kennedy, Treasurer - Basil Rattray, Librarian - Bill Weldon, and Publicity Director - Tim Buck. Fred Hurter as Editor of CENSORED is an ex-officio member of the Executive and Dr. E.T. Bell was named Honorary President earlier in the year.

The projected World Science Fiction League appears to be a step closer to reality now that correspondence has been exchanged between Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States. All approve a WSFL; the question is how, when, and what will be its structure. The CSFS will participate fully in the WSFL if and when it is formed, as one of its constituent units. It will also help in any way that it can in its organization. Great Britain feels that WSFL structure should be decided on now but that it should not come into existence until the British Science Fantasy Society, now in formation, is operating. Canada inclines to agree with the UK since the CSFA, itself, has just barely entered into its own organizational problems.

Number one question on the minds of Canadian SF fans is: "What has happened to the Canadian editions of TWS and Startling?" The last two issues are well overdue.

** FINIS **

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 2 -- Feb 8 -- Aug
 3 -- Mar 9 -- Sep
 4 -- Apr 10 -- Oct
 5 -- May 11 -- Nov
 6 -- June 12 -- Dec

*PLUS
QUARTERLY
REBIRDS*

ARKHAM SAMPLER

August Derleth, Ed.
 Vol. 1, No. 1 -- Win.
 2 -- Spr.
 3 -- Sum.
 4 -- Aut.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION

V. 40 N. 5 -- Jan 5 -- July
 6 -- Feb 6 -- Aug
 V. 50 1 -- Mar 1 (V.42) Sep
 V. 41 N. 2 -- Apr 2 -- Oct
 3 -- May 3 -- Nov
 4 -- June 4 -- Dec

ASTOUNDING SF (Eng.)

Vol. 6, No. 2 -- Feb
 3 -- Apr
 4 -- June
 5 -- Aug
 6 -- Oct
 7 -- Dec

AVON FANTASY READER

Number 5 -- undated (Mar)
 6 -- undated (May)
 7 -- undated (Sep)
 8 -- undated (Dec)

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES

Vol. 9, No. 3 -- Feb
 4 -- Apr
 5 -- June
 6 -- Aug
 10, No. 1 -- Oct
 2 -- Dec

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES

V. 10 N. 1 -- Jan 7 -- July
 2 -- Feb 8 -- Aug
 3 -- Mar 9 -- Sep
 4 -- Apr 10 -- Oct
 5 -- May 11 -- Nov
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FANTASTIC NOVELS

V. 1 N. 6 -- Mar 2 -- July
 2 N. 1 -- May 3 -- Sep
 4 -- Nov

FANTASY BOOK

Vol. 1, No. 2 -- Mar (collector edn)
 -- May (newsstand edn)
 (small size) 3 -- June (both edns)
 4 -- Dec (both edns)

FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS

John W. Campbell Jr, Ed.
 (large size) Undated (Sep)

FUTURE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

(Eng.) large Undated -- #11

LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS (Mexican)

Antonio Helú, Ed.

(small size)

#1 - 1st of July
 2 - 15th of July
 3 - 31st of July
 4 - 2d fortnite of Aug
 5 - 1st fortnite of Sep
 6 - 2d fortnite of Sep
 7 - 1st fortnite of Oct
 8 - 2d fortnite of Oct
 9 - 30th of Nov
 10 - Dec (assumed)

PLANET STORIES

Vol. 3, No. 10 -- Spr. (Dec-Feb 47-8)
 11 -- Sum.

12 -- Fall

4, No. 1 -- Win.

STARTLING STORIES (PRINTED IN CAN. TOO)

V. 16 N. 3 -- Jan 3 -- July
 17 N. 1 -- Mar 1 (V.18) Sep
 2 -- May 2 -- Nov

THRILLING WONDER STORIES (CANADA TOO)

V. 31 N. 3 -- Feb 3 -- Aug
 32 N. 1 -- Apr 1 (V.33) Oct
 2 -- June 2 -- Dec

UNKNOWN WORLDS (Eng.)

Vol. 3, No. 12 -- Spr.
 4, No. 1 -- Sum.
 2 -- Win.

WEIRD TALES (CANADIAN PRINTINGS TOO)

Vol. 40, No. 2 -- Jan 5 -- July
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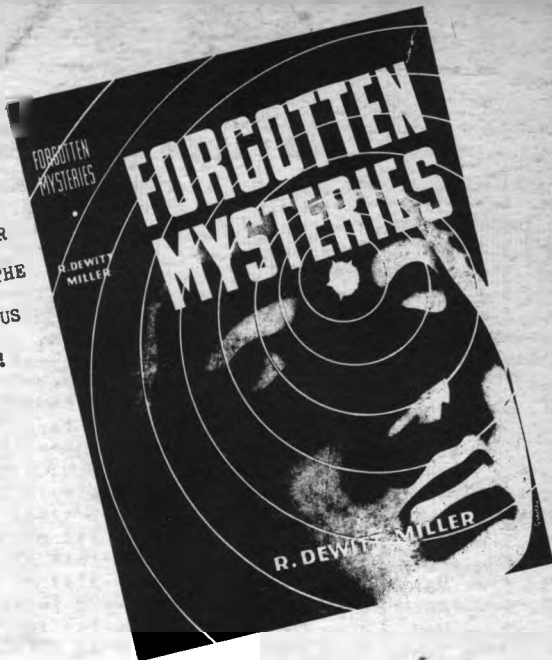
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